

## CLAIMS

1. A cutting device comprising:
  - a head member having a top side, left and right sides, and further including a transverse slit for housing a cutting blade, said transverse slit extending from said top side;
  - a first leg pivotally mounted to one side and an opposed second leg mounted to another side;
  - a cutting blade positioned within said transverse slit,
  - a connector operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade;
  - said head member further including a shield extending from one of said sides, said shield having a cutting surface positioned opposite said transverse slit and spaced from said top side to define a cutting chamber between said top side and said shield; and
  - wherein when said first and second legs are in an open position said cutting blade is in a retracted condition within the slit, and when the first and second legs are moved into a closed position, said cutting blade moves into cutting engagement with the cutting surface of said shield.
2. The cutting device of claim 1, wherein when the first and second legs are moved into a fully closed position, the cutting blade extends into a corresponding slit positioned in the shield opposite the transverse slit in the head member.
3. The cutting device of claim 2, wherein the cutting blade has a centrally located cutting tip.

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4. The cutting device of claim 3, wherein said cutting tip is located in axial alignment with said slot.
  5. The cutting device of claim 2, wherein the cutting blade is angled upwardly away from an enclosed portion of said cutting chamber.
  6. The cutting device of claim 1, wherein a guide is located in said transverse slit, said guide is on either side of the cutting blade, and wherein said cutting blade rides between said guide during movement.
  7. The cutting device of claim 6, wherein said guide is two parallel pins that are made of stainless steel.
  8. The cutting device of claim 1, wherein when the legs are in the closed position the legs form, a keyring opening is formed between the legs at an end of the cutting device opposite of the shield.
  9. The cutting device of claim 1, further including a first leg extension movable within said first leg from a first retracted position to a second extended position and a second leg extension movable within said second leg said second leg extension is movable from a first retracted position to a second extended position.

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10. The cutting device of claim 9, further including locking means for locking the legs in a closed position when the first and second leg extensions are positioned in the first retracted position.
11. The cutting device of claim 10, wherein one of the leg extensions includes a latch, wherein when said leg extension is moved into its first retracted position when the legs are in the closed position, the latch engages a portion of the other leg extension wherein the legs become locked in the closed position.
12. The cutting device of claim 11, wherein said latch is J-shaped.
13. The cutting device of claim 1, wherein said cutting surface of said shield is positioned 0.25 inches or less from said top side of said member.
14. A cutting device comprising:
  - a head member having a cutting blade disposed therein;
  - first and second legs mounted to said head member;
  - a connector operatively connected to one leg and said cutting blade to move the cutting edge blade of said cutting blade in and out of said head member; a shield connected to said head member disposed in a path of said cutting blade wherein when said first and second legs are in an open position said cutting blade is in a retracted condition generally within said head member, and when the first and second legs are moved into a closed position said cutting blade moves in a direction of said shield.

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15. The cutting device of claim 14, wherein said shield includes a cutting surface and wherein when the first and second side legs are in said closed position an outer portion of said cutting blade extends into said shield.
16. The cutting device of claim 15, wherein said cutting surface is triangular.
17. The cutting device of claim 15, wherein a cutting chamber is defined between said head member and said shield.
18. The cutting device of claim 24, wherein the cutting blade is positioned between a guide located within the head member.
19. The cutting device of claim 18, wherein said guide is two parallel pins that are made of stainless steel.
20. The cutting device of claim 14, wherein when the legs are in the closed position, the legs form a keyring opening.
21. The cutting device of claim 14, further including a first leg extension movable within said first leg from a first retracted position to a second extended position and a second leg extension movable within said second leg from a first retracted position to a second extended position.

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22. The cutting device of claim 21, further including locking means for locking the legs in a closed position when the first and second leg extensions are positioned in the first retracted position.
23. The cutting device of claim 21, wherein one of the leg extensions includes a latch, and when said leg extension is moved into its first retracted position when the legs are in the closed position, the latch engages a portion of the other leg or leg extension and the first and second legs become locked in the closed position.
24. The cutting device of claim 36, wherein said latch is J-shaped.
25. The cutting device of claim 17, the cutting chamber has a width of less than 0.25 inches.
26. A cutting device for severing plastic restraints comprising:
  - a head member having a cutting blade disposed therein;
  - first and second legs mounted to said head member;
  - a connector operatively connecting said first leg and said cutting blade;
  - a slot formed within said head member, said cutting blade movable within said slot;
  - a shield connected to said head member disposed in a path of said cutting blade;
  - a cutting chamber defined by said shield and said head member for placement of the plastic restraint to be severed;

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said cutting blade having a cutting surface movable in to said cutting chamber when said first and second legs are in a closed position and out of said cutting chamber when said first and second legs are in an open position.

27. The cutting device of claim 26, wherein the cutting blade has an outer contact point and angled cutting surfaces extending from either side of the outer contact point and wherein the outer contact point of the cutting blade is positioned such that the outer contact point of the cutting blade contacts the restraint when the restraint is positioned within the cutting chamber.

28. The cutting device of claim 27, wherein when the legs are moved into their closed position the cutting blade severs the restraint from where the cutting blade contacts the restraint towards the sides of said restraint.

29. The cutting device of claim 26, wherein the cutting chamber has an enclosed end whereby the cutting chamber can be hooked onto said restraint prior to severance and when the restraint abuts the enclosed end of the cutting chamber, said restraint is positioned within the path of the cutting blade.

30. The cutting device of claim 29, wherein a central portion of said restraint is positioned in the path of an outer cutting tip of the cutting blade.

31. The cutting device of claim 29 wherein the cutting blade is upwardly angled from the enclosed end of the cutting chamber whereby the restraint is pinned

between the cutting blade and the enclosed end and the restraint is severed from a first side of the restraint to a second side of the restraint located nearer to the enclosed end of the chamber.

32. The cutting device of claim 26 wherein a keyring is formed between the legs when the legs are in a closed position.

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